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One Month after the End of the War in Iraq, Americans are Significantly Less Confident About the Direction of the Country, Particularly Among Voters Age 18-29

Presidential approval, presidential reelection and generic Congressional vote are all down significantly since highs posted at the conclusion of the war in Iraq.

Between May 6-8, 2003, and May 20-22, 2003, Ipsos US Public Affairs interviewed for the Cook Political Report a representative sample of 2,003 adult Americans nationwide, including 1,548 registered voters. The margin of error for the combined surveys is $\pm 2.2\%$ for all adults, $\pm 2.5\%$ for registered voters.

WASHINGTON, D.C., (May 22, 2003) — In interviews with 1,548 registered voters conducted May 6-8, 2003, and May 20-22, 2003, the Ipsos-Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll finds confidence in the country declining sharply since the conclusion of the war in Iraq, particularly among voters age 18-29.

- The current Ipsos Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll finds a slim majority (51%) of adults believe the country is headed in the right direction, down 7 points since one month ago.
- This concern is most evident among respondents age 18-29. A majority (52%) now feel the country is off on the wrong track, a net difference of 22 points since one month ago.

	Direction of the Country			
	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)		Previous Survey (4/1-3 & 4/15-17)	
	Total	Age 18-29	Total	Age 18-29
Right Direction	51%	44%	58%	54%
Wrong Track	43%	52%	36%	40%

- Overall presidential approval has dipped by four points since the end of the war in Iraq. However, overall approval still rests eight points higher than before the war.

	Overall Presidential Approval			
	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)	mid-April Survey (4/1-17/03)	mid-March Survey (3/4-20/03)
Total Approve	61%	63%	65%	56%
Total Disapprove	36%	34%	32%	39%
Net Difference	+25	+29	+33	+17

- All aspects of presidential approval have declined except handling of foreign policy.

Registered Voters	Aspects of Presidential Approval							
	Overall Approval		Approval - Economy		Approval - Domestic Issues		Approval - Foreign Policy	
	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)
Total Approve	61%	63%	49%	51%	48%	50%	68%	70%
Total Disapprove	36%	34%	47%	46%	48%	47%	29%	28%
Net Difference	+25	+29	+2	+5	+0	+3	+39	+42

Age 18-29	Aspects of Presidential Approval							
	Overall Approval		Approval - Economy		Approval - Domestic Issues		Approval - Foreign Policy	
	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)	Early May Survey (4/15-17 & 5/6-8)
Total Approve	52%	59%	41%	53%	42%	50%	60%	62%
Total Disapprove	47%	39%	57%	45%	57%	47%	38%	35%
Net Difference	+5	+20	-16	+8	-15	+3	+22	+27

- Among 18-29 year-olds, overall presidential approval has dipped from 59% at the end of the war with Iraq to 52% currently, and disapproval has risen from 39% to 47%.

- Attitudes toward reelection have generally stayed the same since the end of the war in Iraq, although attitudes toward reelecting George W. Bush have dropped significantly among voters age 18-29 over the past month.

	Presidential Reelection			
	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)		Previous Survey (4/1-3 & 4/15-17)	
	Total	Age 18-29	Total	Age 18-29
Definitely reelect Bush	45%	29%	47%	37%
Consider someone else	23%	27%	22%	26%
Definitely vote for someone else	29%	42%	28%	36%

- With regard to generic Congressional vote, a significant decrease in the support for a Republican Congress is apparent in the period since the end of the war with Iraq, as is an increase in support for a Democratic Congress. The current poll shows Republicans and Democrats in a statistical dead heat regarding Americans' preference for control of the Congress.

	Generic Congressional Vote			
	Current Survey (5/6-8 & 5/20-22)		Previous Survey (4/1-3 & 4/15-17)	
	Total	Age 18-29	Total	Age 18-29
Republicans	43%	34%	47%	39%
Democrats	44%	52%	40%	49%
Neither	9%	8%	9%	9%

- Among 18-29 year-olds, a majority now prefer a Democratically-controlled Congress, a slight increase since the end of the war with Iraq.

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About Ipsos US Public Affairs

The survey was conducted by Ipsos US Public Affairs, the Washington, D.C.-based division of Ipsos, which is the world's fourth largest polling and market research organization, based in Paris. Ipsos US Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective public affairs research organization made up of Democratic and Republican campaign and political polling veterans. It was established in Washington in August 2001, and it is led by Thomas Riehle, who has more than 15 years of experience as a political pollster in Washington. The Ipsos/Cook Political Report poll and the Ipsos Consumer Attitudes and Spending by Household (CASH) Index poll are usually conducted the first and third week of every month, as part of Ipsos US Public Affairs weekly omnibus polling service.

The political survey is designed in conjunction with Charlie Cook of the Cook Political Report. Founded in 1984, The Cook Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter that analyzes elections for the U.S. House, Senate, governor and President as well as domestic American political trends. The New York Times has called the publication, "a newsletter that both parties consider authoritative" while the dean of the Washington political press corps, the Washington Post's David Broder has called Charlie Cook, its editor and publisher, "perhaps the best political handicapper in the nation." Cook also writes two weekly columns that appear in National Journal magazine and CongressDaily/AM and on nationaljournal.com, and serves as a political analyst for Cable News Network's show "Inside Politics." Researched and written by a staff of five based in Washington, D.C., the Cook Political Report's subscribers are primarily the lobbyists and managers for the political action committees of the nation's major corporations, trade associations and labor unions as well as by news organizations, foreign governments and others with an interest in detailed, impartial information and analysis of Congressional, gubernatorial and presidential elections.